

formed to extend through a central opening 90 in annular flange 86. The negative tabs 50, 52 are then electrically secured, as by welding, to the ring surface 88.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

From the foregoing, it should now be recognized that a battery construction has been described herein which minimizes the amount of wasted space within the battery case and insures that substantially the entire interior volume sealed with the case is available and can be used for accommodating an electrode assembly. Wasted interior space is minimized by directly connecting a plurality of first polarity tabs extending from the electrode assembly to a current collection ring adjacent the upper end of the case. A plurality of second polarity tabs is directly connected to a lower edge of the case thereby assuring that substantially the entire volume is available for accommodating the electrode assembly. This construction yields a high energy density output which is further enhanced by the utilization of multiple tabs which reduces the internal resistance of the battery.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 5-10 as follows:

5.(New)

A battery comprising:

a tubular case comprising an electrically conductive wall enclosing an interior volume, said case defining open first and second ends;

an electrode assembly comprising helically wound first and second electrode strips spaced by at least one separator strip, said first assembly including a first set of spaced tabs extending in a first direction from said first electrode strip and a second set of spaced tabs extending in a second direction from said second electrode strip;

means mounting said electrode assembly in said interior volume with said first set of tabs proximate to said case open first end and said second set of tabs proximate to said case open second end;

a dielectric member mounted in said interior volume close to said case first end;

an electrically conductive ring mounted on said dielectric member close to said case first end and electrically insulated from said case wall;

means electrically connecting said first set of tabs to said electrically conductive ring;

an electrically conductive first end cap; and wherein

said first end cap is secured to said case wall first end proximate to said conductive ring to minimize empty interior volume therebetween.

2/ 6.(New) The battery of claim *5* wherein said conductive ring defines an opening surrounded by a flat ring surface; and wherein

A⁴ cont said first set tabs extend from said electrode assembly through said opening and are electrically secured to said ring surface.

3/ 7.(New) The battery of claim *6* further comprising an electrically conductive second end cap; and wherein

said second end cap is secured to said case wall proximate to said second end so as to pinch and electrically connect said second set tabs between said case wall and said second end cap.

4/ 8.(New) A battery comprising:
a tubular metal case having open first and second ends and defining an interior volume;

a dielectric member mounted in said case adjacent to said first open end;

a metal member supported by said dielectric member;

an electrode assembly comprising a first polarity electrode strip and a second polarity electrode strip helically wound together with a separator strip between adjacent layers;

a first plurality of first polarity metal tabs connected to spaced points along said first polarity electrode strip;

a second plurality of second polarity metal tabs connected to spaced points along said second polarity electrode strip;

said first and second pluralities of metal tabs extending in opposite directions from said electrode assembly; and wherein

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said electrode assembly is mounted in said interior volume with said first plurality of tabs electrically connected to said metal member and with said second plurality of tabs pinched between the case second end and a metal end cap secured to said case second end.

⁵/₉(New) The battery of claim ⁴/₈ wherein said dielectric member comprises an insulating ring configured for mounting in said interior volume in engagement with said metal case; and wherein

said metal member comprises a conductive ring configured for mounting on said insulating ring close to said case first end; and

a conductive end cap secured to said case first end close to said conductive ring to minimize empty interior volume space between said conductive end cap and said conductive ring.

⁶/₁₀(New) The battery of claim ⁵/₉ wherein said conductive ring defines an opening surrounded by a flat ring surface; and wherein

^{envoy} said first set tabs extend from said electrode assembly through said opening and are electrically secured to said ring surface.--
